

The Real Estate ANALYST

FEBRUARY 1946

Roy Wenzlick Editor

VOLUME XV

A concise easily digested periodic analysis based upon scientific research in real estate fundamentals and trends....Constantly measuring and reporting the basic economic factors responsible for changes in trends and values.....Current Studies Surveys....Forecasts

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REAL ESTATE ECONOMISTS, APPRAISERS AND COUNSELORS

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK

THE twenty-four charts on pages 56 through 59 cover many of the basic barometers of business activity in the United States, including production, employment, wages, cost of living, sales, check transactions, stock prices, construction, real estate, etc. All of the charts show the fluctuations for the period from January 1937 to the last month for which figures are available. On a few of the charts quarterly figures only are available in the earlier period, but on all charts monthly figures are shown during the last few years.

Roughly, the charts can be divided into two groups, the one group showing various physical indexes of production, and the other group showing barometers which are affected by dollar prices. When this division is made it is quite significant that almost all charts showing physical volume of production have been dropping constantly, some at a rather rapid rate, since V-J Day, and those showing dollar figures have almost all been rising. This is clearly a result of the inflationary trends in American business. Dollar prices are rising not only because of the reduced purchasing power of the dollar due to the increase in the number of dollars of currency and credit manufactured by the government during the war, but higher prices are resulting also from the limited production taking place at a time when almost unlimited production is required. The most certain way to prevent inflation from getting out of hand is to produce goods and services at a rapid rate.

If this be true, certainly our national policies during the entire reconversion period have been highly inflationary. At a time when manpower is needed in large quantities for production, we have raised unemployment benefits to the point that in St. Louis and St. Louis County, for example, at the present time we are paying more than 35,000 persons not to work at a time when the USES and other employment agencies are finding it very difficult to send applicants out on jobs. The President is largely to blame for his ill-advised call to labor to strike for higher wages which "were to be paid without increasing prices." Even the Administration no longer stands by such an utterly absurd position. The unions used it at first with their tongue in their cheek, but they, too, are no longer making the claim and are now asking that prices be allowed to rise by a sufficient amount to pay the increased wages. Of course, this increase in prices will be made the excuse for another wage increase, and inflation will thus continue to spiral upward.

Industrial production passed its peak long before the end of the war. After V-E Day it started dropping rapidly and the drop has been continued into 1946 because of labor troubles. By the second quarter of 1946, however, there (cont. on page 54)

REAL ESTATE TAX *

City	Average Real Estate Tax per Family 1940	Average (median) Annual Rent 1940	Tax as % of Rent	Rank
Akron, Ohio	\$ 91.45	\$317.16	28.8	17
Albany, N. Y.	212.70	401.76	53.0	70
Atlanta, Ga.	115.20	223.32	51.6	66
Baltimore, Md.	137.80	324.72	42.4	51
Birmingham, Ala.	70.60	184.44	38.3	43
Boston, Mass.	282.00	358.92	78.6	93
Bridgeport, Conn.	135.00	318.48	42.4	52
Buffalo, N. Y.	246.00	334.80	73.5	91
Cambridge, Mass.	227.30	363.36	62.6	84
	157.60	284.16	55.5	75
Camden, N. J.	65.80	345.24	19.1	1
Canton, Ohio	89.20	189.96	47.0	60
Chattanooga, Tenn.	138.30	390.72	35.4	36
Chicago, Ill.				41
Cincinnati, Ohio	117.20	311.04	37.7	35
Cleveland, Ohio	118.00	334.32	35.3	35
Columbus, Ohio	75.20	339.24	22.2	
Dallas, Tex.	87.00	284.28	30.6	18
Dayton, Ohio	94.90	352.44	26.9	14
Denver, Colo.	102.60	320.88	32.0	23
Des Moines, Iowa	138.50	319.44	43.3	54
Detroit, Mich.	143.00	415.80	34.4	30
Duluth, Minn.	167.20	307.20	54.5	72
Elizabeth, N. J.	195.00	387.84	50.4	64
El Paso, Tex.	89.00	170.04	52.4	69
Erie, Pa.	144.60	296.64	48.7	62
Evansville, Ind.	93.50	269.76	34.7	33
Fall River, Mass.	123.00	210.60	58.4	77
Flint, Mich.	86.30	339.72	25.4	10
Fort Wayne, Ind.	99.75	355.56	28.1	15
Fort Worth, Tex.	109.20	232.80	47.0	61
Gary, Ind.	127.60	360.24	35.4	37
Grand Rapids, Mich.	67.60	287.28	23.6	6
Hartford, Conn.	201.00	393.00	51.1	65
Houston, Tex.	111.75	303.72	36.8	39
Indianapolis, Ind.	105.00	305.88	34.4	31
Jacksonville, Fla.	69.30	225.48	30.8	19
Jersey City, N. J.	289.00	364.68	79.2	91
Kansas City, Kans.	111.15	205.20	54.2	7
Kansas City, Mo.	120.75	294.60	41.0	47
Knoxville, Tenn.	131.00	201.36	65.1	88
Long Beach, Calif.	145.00	348.72	41.6	40
Los Angeles, Calif.	120.60	364.44	33.1	
Louisville, Ky.	98.25	241.08	40.8	25
Lowell, Mass.	157.90			
Lynn, Mass.	154.50	253.32	62.4	83
Memphis, Tenn.	76.90	345.48	44.8	55
		195.72	39.3	41
Miami, Fla.	115.40	342.00	33.8	28

^{*}See page 64 for explanation of this table.

REAL ESTATE TAX

City	Average Real Estate Tax per Family 1940	Average (median) Annual Rent 1940	Tax as % of Rent	Rank	
Milwaukee, Wis.	\$174.00	\$387.72	44.9	56	
Minneapolis, Minn.	129.20	383.88	33.7	27	
Nashville, Tenn.	79.90	194.52	41.1	48	
Newark, N. J.	254.00	352.20	72.1	89	
New Bedford, Mass.	133.00	220.32	60.4	80	
New Haven, Conn.	171.40	312.96	54.8	74	
New Orleans, La.	93.00	205.92	45.2	57	
New York, N. Y.	238.00	457.20	52.0	67	
Norfolk, Va.	89.30	258.00	34.6	32	
Oakland, Calif.	113.20	366.24	30.9	20	
Oklahoma City, Okla.	58.45	273.24	21.4	2	
Omaha, Nebr.	101.20	318.00	31.9	22	
Paterson, N. J.	175.60	289.68	60.6	81	
Peoria, Ill.	97.80	408.60	24.0	7	
Philadelphia, Pa.	140.75	337.20	41.7	50	
Pittsburgh, Pa.	221.50	344.64	64.3	87	
Portland, Oreg.	117.40	289.44	40.6	45	
Providence, R. I.	151.80	277.20	54.7	73	
Reading, Pa.	147.00	315.36	46.6	59	
Richmond, Va.	99.80	271.68	36.8	40	
Rochester, N. Y.	247.70	393.72	63.0	85	
St. Louis, Mo.	104.40	275.40		42	
St. Paul, Minn.	134.60		37.9 36.6	38	
		367.56			
Salt Lake City, Utah	89.30	337.56	26.5	13	
San Antonio, Tex.	85.50	201.48	42.5	53	
San Diego, Calif.	113.90	334.20	34.1	29	
San Francisco, Calif.		405.36	33.4	26	
Scranton, Pa.	134.60	293.88	45.8	58	
Seattle, Wash.	81.60	314.76	25.9	12	
Somerville, Mass.	174.60	357.72	48.9	63	
South Bend, Ind.	105.60	324.60	32.5	24	
Spokane, Wash.	65.40	265.08	24.7	9	
Springfield, Mass.	213.00	357.96	59.5	78	
Syracuse, N. Y.	220.80	366.24	60.3	79	
Tacoma, Wash.	56.50	252.12	22.4	5	
Tampa, Fla.	145.30	191.52	75.9	92	
Toledo, Ohio	81.20	333.24	24.4	8	
Trenton, N. J.	202.30	330.48	61.2	82	
Tulsa, Okla.	95.80	307.92	31.1	21	
Utica, N. Y.	211.70	291.72	72.6	90	
Washington, D. C.	124.10	570.36	21.8	3	
Waterbury, Conn.	169.00	324.00	52.1	68	
Wichita, Kans.	95.30	270.96	35.2	34	
Wilmington, Del.	100.80	393.48	25.6	11	
Worcester, Mass.	192.00	331.80	57.9	76	
Yonkers, N. Y.	314.60	499.56	63.0	86	
Youngstown, Ohio	103.60	364.56	28.4	16	

(cont. from page 51)

should be sufficient pressure behind demand and enough ingenuity on the part of management to cause industrial production to rise in spite of the retarding effect of ill-advised government policies. Beyond any question, at the present time the factor limiting industrial production more than any other is the continued operation of the OPA.

Iron and steel output fell sharply during the second six months of 1945, and was further reduced by the steel strike in 1946. By the second quarter of this year steel production should be up to double the 1939 level.

War expenditures have been dropping since May of 1945, but the last figure on our chart is still more than half of the peak. The war has now been over for six months and we should naturally expect that war expenditures would drop rapidly. The Federal government, however, is still occupying 35 million square feet of office space, which is better than 10 per cent of all office space in the United States. This space is badly needed by private industry and is not available for reconversion. If we are to divert the great part of our building materials to satisfy the housing needs during 1946 and 1947, we should not build new office space. Rapid contraction of government bureaus would reduce government expenditures, would increase industrial production, and would also provide the space which private enterprise now needs very badly.

In spite of all reconversion problems, the number of employees in all nonagricultural establishments in the United States has dropped only 10 per cent since the peak reached in December 1943. Many persons have voluntarily withdrawn from the labor force and unemployment has been below all government predictions of three to six months ago.

Construction employment has picked up considerably from the low point reached in October 1944 and should show further gains if we are to achieve even a small percentage of our housing goals.

Government employment reached an all-time peak in May of 1945 with 6,006,000 on the government pay roll. This has declined by only 3.9 per cent. In other words, out of every 26 government employees employed during the peak period of the war, 25 are still being paid by the taxpayers. This is an increase of 45 per cent above the number employed at the time the war started in Europe and a far larger percentage over the pre-New Deal level.

There are more persons employed on transportation and public utilities today than there have been at any time in the past. Employment in these lines should be expected to continue to grow during the next few years.

Shipbuilding employment is dropping very rapidly as it should, as we have built enough ships during the war period to over-supply the world for a good many years.

Wages of industrial, clerical, agricultural and other workers are running about 68 per cent above the 1926 level. This is a much larger percentage increase than the percentage increase in the cost of living as shown by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index. That index, however, does not completely reflect the deterioration in quality and is also affected by the freezing of rents, as rents form a large part of the cost of living.

Department store sales hit their highest peak in November 1945 and are continuing at a very high level. Apparently persons with a backlog of war savings are not greatly worried over reconversion and are, on the average, buying at a rapid rate.

A comparison of charts on lumber prices and on lumber production is quite interesting. The OPA is very proud of the fact that it has held down the cost of new building, but the charts give evidence that at a time when unparalleled production was necessary and with only two and a half months' supply of lumber in inventory in the United States; lumber production has been dropping rapidly. The reduced production at a time when lumber is one of the bottlenecks in new construction is more highly inflationary than could be any relaxation of OPA controls. The same statement could probably be made on general prices and, certainly, on building material prices.

The chart showing new residential building indicates that the bottom was passed some time ago and that new building is now showing some increase. In view of the present housing shortage this line will rise rapidly, if not hampered too greatly by government restrictions.

The charts on check transactions, industrial stock prices and real estate activity all reflect the inflationary monetary situation. Because of the multiplication of dollars and their lowered value, all capital assets are being revalued by public opinion and this is causing increased sales.

POPULATION BY STATES, JULY 1, 1945

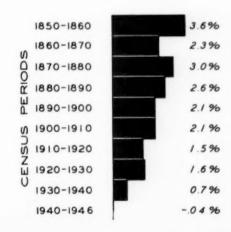
HE Bureau of the Census has just released estimates of population by States as of July 1, 1945. These figures show total population, which includes members of the armed forces in Continental United States distributed by State of station, but excludes armed forces overseas.

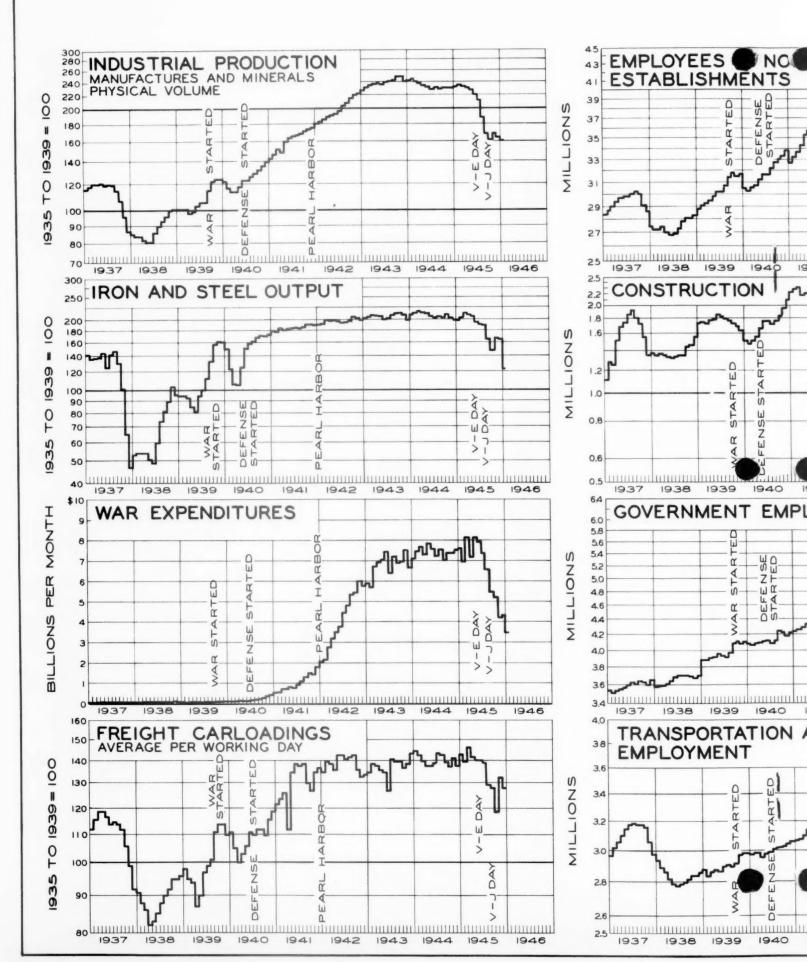
In studying these figures it should be remembered that on July 1, 1945, a majority of the military installations were located in southern and western States and this fact has helped to contribute to population gains shown by those States. If civilian population only were considered, only the West had an increase in civilian population between 1940 and 1945, and most of this increase was in California, Washington, Oregon and Arizona. When demobilization

is completed, the picture will change radically, both for the total population and for the civilian population. Although in all States the population changes that occurred during the war period were not directly associated with the war, both the volume and the pattern of population growth and redistribution were in large measure a result of our participation in the war.

Nineteen States, including the District of Columbia, 6 in the West, 5 in the South and 4 in each of the other regions, together gained about 4,500,-000 through civilian migration. The remaining 30 States lost about 3,900,-000.

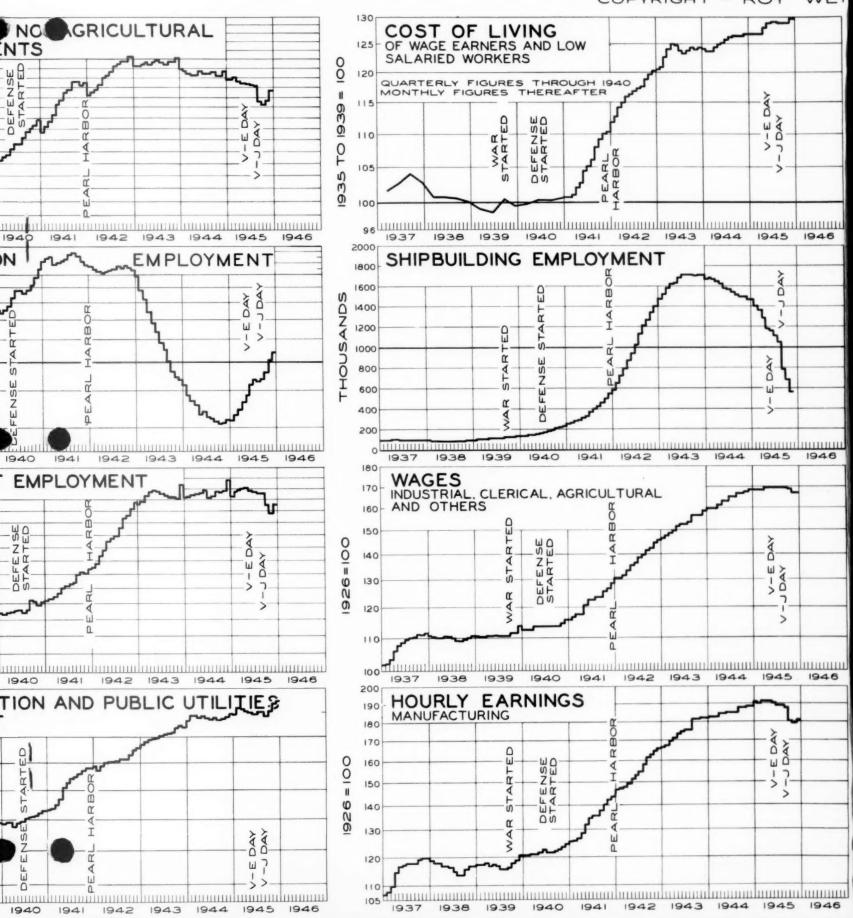
TYPICAL AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH OF STATES 1850-1946

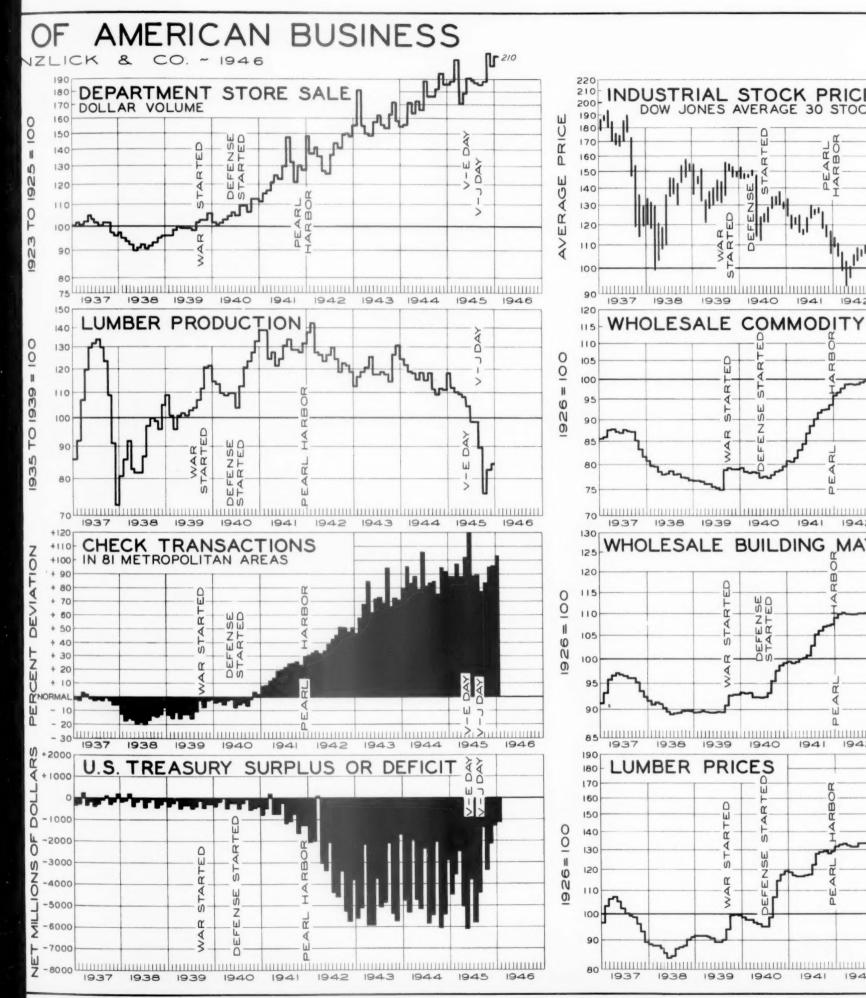




PRINCIPAL BAROMETERS

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RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH +300 CONNECTICUT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20650 ALABAMA CALIFORNIA ILLINOIS KANSAS +200 +100 AVERAGE -100 -200 450 NATIONAL 3700 DELAWARE INDIANA 13000 ARIZONA +1300 961 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1900 - 10 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 +1200 +1100 HIE 1900 - 1 0 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 1930 - 40 1870 - 90 1880 - 90 1890 - 00 +1000 IH-+900 COLORADO FLORIDA 12750 +800 IOWA COMPARISON +700 +600 +500 +400 Z +300 LOSS IDAHO LOUISIANA +200 103 0 +100 ZIVO 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1890 - 10 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 1850 - 60 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1900 - 10 1910 - 20 1930 - 40 1940-50 -100 PERCENTAGE 300 -200 +300 1000 ARKANSAS GEORGIA KENTUCKY MAINE +200 1850 - 60 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1890 - 10 1910 - 20 +100

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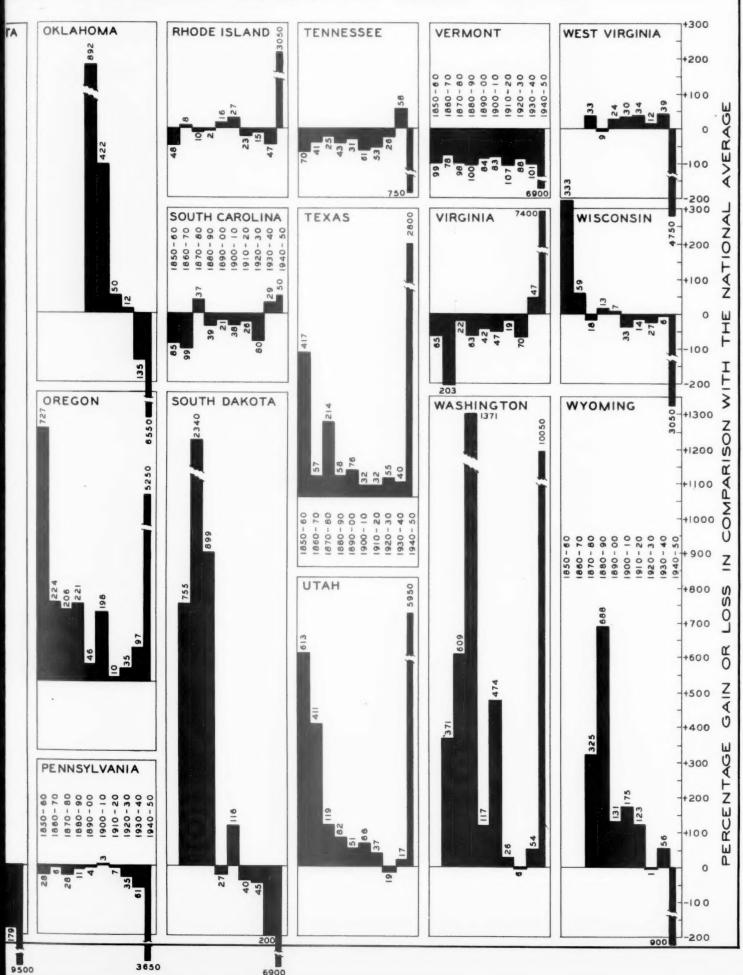
60

STATES AS A PERCENTAGE ABOVE OR BEI COPYRIGHT 1946 SAINT ROY WENZLICK & CO. LOUIS ISAS MINNESOTA MARYLAND MISSOURI NEVADA NEW JERSEY NORTH DAKO 1850 - 60 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1890 - 90 1900 - 10 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 1930 - 40 0.0 3100 NEBRASKA NEW MEXICO 35 35 35 37 57 MASSACHUSETTS MONTANA **NEW YORK** 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1890 - 00 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 1930 - 40 1850 - 60 1860 - 70 1880 - 90 1890 - 10 1900 - 10 1920 - 20 1930 - 40 ISIANA MICHIGAN NORTH CAROLINA 25 NE MISSISSIPPI NEW OHIO HAMPSHIRE 1850 - 60 1860 - 70 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1900 - 10 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 1920 - 30 1870 - 80 1880 - 90 1900 - 10 1910 - 20 1920 - 30 1930 - 40 39 34 42 36 36 61 2450 62

9200

3700

DW TYPICAL GROWTH 1850-1945



ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES EXCLUDING ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS, BY STATES, JULY 1, 1945, AND APRIL 1, 1940

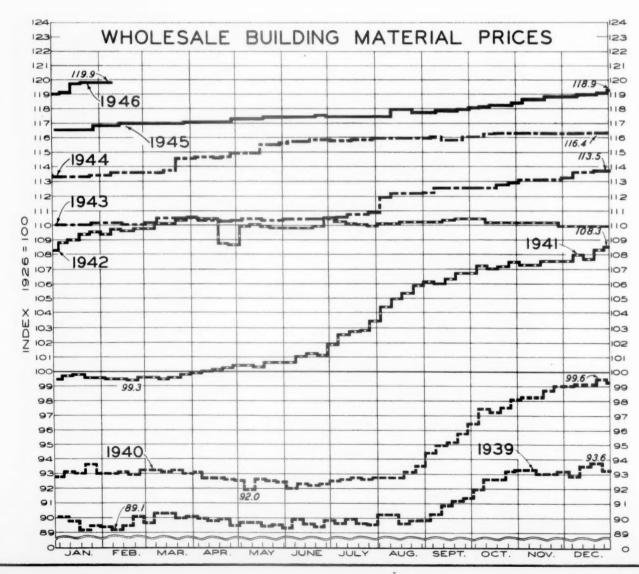
State	July 1, 1945	April 1, 1940	Increase or decrease between April 1, 1940, and July 1, 1945							
			Number	Percent						
UNITED STATES	131,975,774	131,669,275	+306,499	+0.2						
Alabama	2,812,301	2,832,961	-20,660	-0.7						
Arizona	630,298	499,261	+131,037	+26.2						
Arkansas	1,779,817	1,949,387	-169,570	-8.7						
California	8,822,688	6,907,387	+1,915,301	+27.7						
Colorado	1,120,595	1,123,296	-2,701	-0.2						
Connecticut	1,786,300	1,709,242	+77,058	+4.5						
Delaware	286,832	266,505	+20,327	+7.6						
District of Column	ola 938,458	663,091	+275,367	+41.5						
Florida	2,385,917	1,897,414	+488,503	+25.7						
Georgia	3,191,766	3,123,723	+68,043	+2.2						
Idaho	500,109	524,873	-24,764	-4.7						
Illinois	7,721,099	7,897,241	-176,142	-2.2						
Indiana	3,437,745	3,427,796	+9,949	+0.3						
Iowa	2,259,526	2,538,268	-278,742	-11.0						
Kansas	1,740,379	1,801,028	-60,649	-3.4						
Kentucky	2,578,179	2,845,627	-267,448	-9.4						
Louisiana	2,456,057	2,363,880	+92,177	+3.9						
Maine	785,913	847,226	-61,313	-7.2						
Maryland	2,125,419	1,821,244	+304,175	+16.7						
Massachusetts	4,183,179	4,316,721	-133,542	-3.1						
Michigan	5,471,774	5,256,106	+215,668	+4.1						
Minnesota	2,497,485	2,792,300	-294,815	-10.6						
Mississippi	2,080,377	2,183,796	-103,419	-4.7						
Missouri	3,556,693	3,784,664	-227,971	-6.0						
Montana	457,624	559,456	-101,832	-18.2						
Nebraska	1,198,492	1,315,834	-117,342	-8.9						
Nevada	159,804	110,247	+49,557	+45.0						
		491,524	1	-8.0						
New Hampshire	452,174	4,160,165	-39,350	+1.0						
New Jersey	4,200,941		+40,776	+0.6						
New Mexico	535,220	531,818	+3,402	-6.6						
New York	12,584,913	13,479,142	-894,229							
North Carolina	3,504,626	3,571,623	-66,997	-1.9						
North Dakota	520,935	641,935	-121,000	-18.8						
Ohio	6,873,448	6,907,612	-34,164	-0.5						
Oklahoma	2,034,460	2,336,434	-301,974	-12.9						
Oregon	1,206,322	1,089,684	+116,638	+10.7						
Pennsylvania	9,193,957	9,900,180	-706,223	-7.1						
Rhode Island	758,222	713,346	+44,876	+6.3						
South Carolina	1,905,597	1,899,804	+5,793	+0.3						
South Dakota	555,347	642,961	-87,614	-13.6						
Tennessee	2,878,777	2,915,841	-37,064	-1.3						
Texas	6,786,740	6,414,824	+371,916	+5.8						
Utah	616,989	550,310	+66,679	+12.1						
Vermont	310,352	359,231	-48,879	-13.6						
Virginia	3,079,706	2,677,773	+401,933	+15.0						
Washington	2,088,574	1,736,191	+352,383	+20.3						
West Virginia	1,724,677	1,901,974	-177,297	-9.3						
Wisconsin	2,952,205	3,137,587	-185,382	-5.9						
Wyoming	246,766	250,742	-3,976	-1.6						

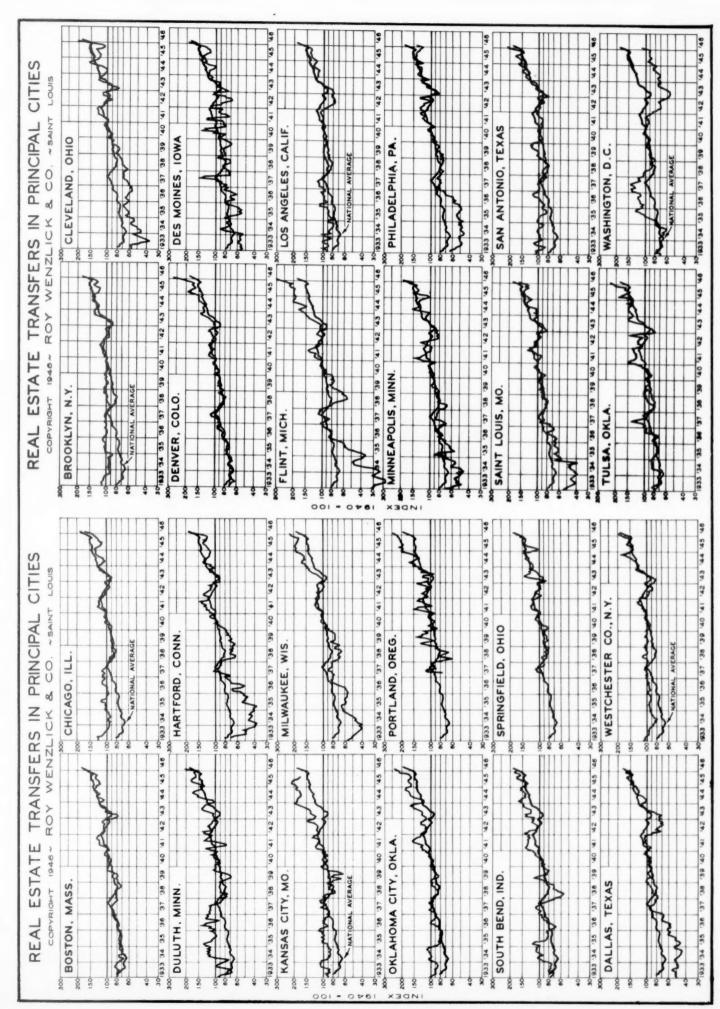
REAL ESTATE TAX

The tables on pages 52 and 53 show the average real estate tax load per family in comparison with the median rental value of homes in each of 94 cities. The tax load per family is the same as shown in the Real Estate Tax Bulletin published in June 1945. The average (median) rent is that reported by the Federal Census in 1940, and includes the contract rent of rented units and the estimated rental value of owned units. The rent is expressed on an annual basis. The third column of figures on the table shows the percentage which the average real estate tax load forms of the average rent and the fourth column shows the ranking of the 94 cities from the standpoint of low taxes.

This table shows in a rough fashion not only the average real estate tax load per family but the ability of the families to pay. It does not show the percentage which the average family pays in real estate taxes on its home. It attempts to compensate to some extent for the fact that certain cities with very low tax rates also have very poor living standards. Since rents were frozen shortly after the 1940 Census, the rental figure should be relatively representative in most cities of conditions as they exist today.







	EST	IMATED NUMB	ER OF NEW	NONFARM DW	ELLING UNI	TS	
1920 24 1921 44 1922 7 1923 8 1924 8	49,000 16,000 71,000	1925 9 1926 8 1927 8 1928 7 1929 5	349,000 310,000 53,000	1930 1931 1932 1933	254,000 134,000 93,000	1937 1938	221,000 319,000 336,000 406,000 515,000
			MONTHLY	FIGURES			
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
January February March April May June July August September October November December	32,300 30,700 42,900 42,900 53,300 45,900 44,200 51,200 42,400 42,900 45,100 41,200	25,700 36,900 46,000 62,900 57,000 44,100 57,600 55,800 58,400 66,200 44,900 47,000	41,200 43,700 60,200 75,200 70,700 77,200 74,600 69,800 67,000 56,200 46,600 32,800	34,500 51,300 52,700 59,700 60,600 46,300 26,700 27,500 40,400 32,200 30,400 34,300	45,000 40,100 33,000 26,700 33,600 21,800 24,200 27,600 24,300 28,100 26,100 19,500	17,300 13,500 18,100 14,300 16,500 17,500 14,500 12,800 11,300 10,800 11,600 10,800	7,700 8,500 13,200 20,500 19,400 20,400 23,300 20,200 21,500 29,800 31,300 29,800
December	41,200	47,000	CUMULATIVI		19,500	10,000	29,000
January February March April May June July August September October November December	32,300 63,000 105,900 148,800 202,100 248,000 292,200 343,400 385,800 428,700 473,800 515,000	25,700 62,600 108,600 171,500 228,500 272,600 330,200 386,000 444,400 510,600 555,500 602,500	41,200 84,900 145,100 220,300 291,000 368,200 442,800 512,600 579,600 635,800 682,400 715,200	34,500 85,800 138,500 198,200 258,800 305,100 331,800 359,300 359,700 431,900 462,300 496,600	45,000 85,100 118,100 144,800 178,400 200,200 224,400 252,000 276,300 304,400 330,500 350,000	17,300 30,800 48,900 63,200 79,700 97,200 111,700 124,500 135,800 146,600 158,200 169,000	7,700 16,200 29,400 49,900 69,300 89,700 113,000 133,200 154,700 184,500 215,800 245,600
				VING TOTALS			
January February March April May June July August September October November December	515,000	508,400 514,600 517,700 537,700 541,400 539,600 553,000 557,600 573,600 596,900 596,700 602,500	618,000 624,800 639,000 651,300 665,000 698,100 715,100 729,100 737,700 727,700 729,400 715,200	708,500 716,100 708,600 693,100 683,000 652,100 604,200 561,900 535,300 511,300 495,100 496,600	507,100 495,900 476,200 443,200 416,200 391,700 389,200 389,300 373,200 369,100 364,800 350,000	322,300 295,700 280,800 268,400 251,300 247,000 237,300 222,500 209,500 192,200 177,700 169,000	159,400 154,400 149,500 155,700 158,600 161,500 170,300 177,700 187,900 206,900 226,600 245,600



EXECUTIVE DIGEST

FEBRUARY 1946

OF THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE ANALYST REPORTS

ROY WENZLICK & CO.

Real Estate Economists, Appraisers and Counselors

VOLUME XV

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REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY

In January real estate activity advanced again, to a point 93.5 per cent above the assumed normal. This is higher than real estate activity has ever

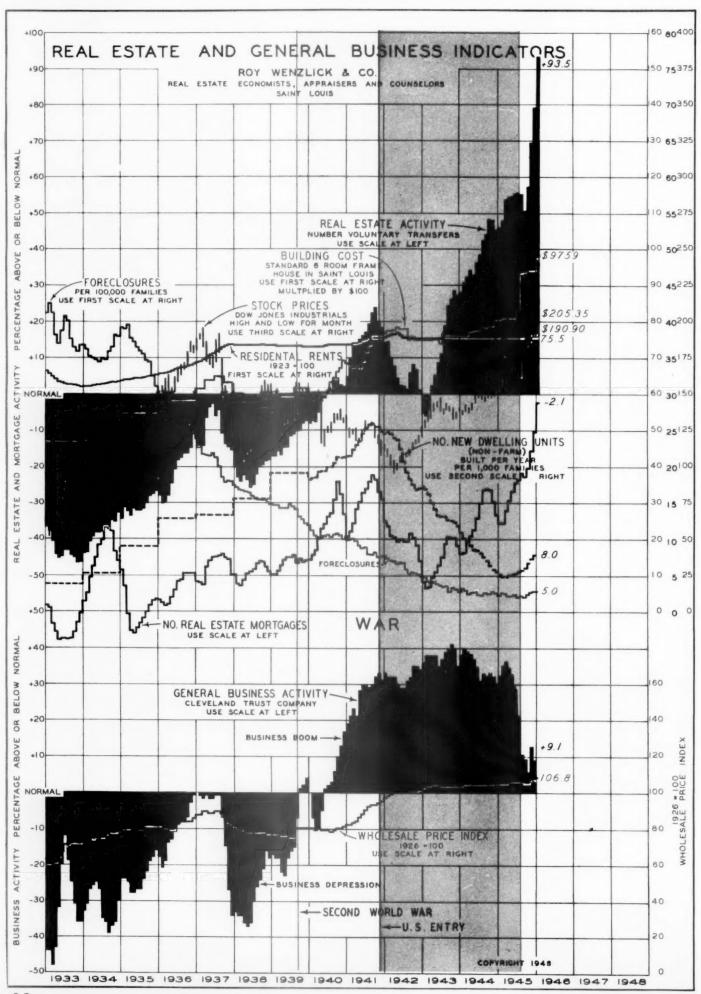
gone over the entire length of our chart, and again brings into question our assumption, in estimating our present normal, that real estate activity gradually decreases as a country matures. This assumption in the computed normal of the past has been borne out by the actual measured figures, and continuation of the downward trend has been assumed in the drawing of our charts. However, the number of transfers during January in the principal cities of the United States without adjustment for trend was also greater than it has been at any time in the past. If these figures are corrected for the number of families but without further adjustment for trend, in January our index number would be 23.1 per cent above the 1926 level. This is 9.8 per cent above the peak of the twenties.

It is our opinion that the rapid rise in real estate transfers is the inevitable result of (1) the revaluation of all capital assets in terms of the depreciated dollar; and (2) the present housing shortage.

FORECLOSURES Involuntary transfers of real estate on our long chart are now running at a rate of 5 per hundred thousand families. This is higher than the all-time low of 3.4 reached last July, but is still below the level of any period prior to 1944.

Each month since last March has seen a slight inRESIDENTIAL BUILDING crease in the rate at which residential building
was being done in all nonfarm areas of the United
States. Last March we were building 4.9 new family accommodations per year
per thousand families. In December, the last month for which complete totals
are available, this had reached a level of 8 new accommodations per year per
thousand families. January and February will show still further advances in
the rate and will show that the rate of increase has been accelerated.

In order to attain the goal for permanent housing set by Wilson Wyatt for new building in 1946 and 1947 it will be necessary to reach in the peak months of 1946 a rate of 31 new units per year per thousand families, and during 1947 we will probably have to pass 49 accommodations. We will not say that this goal is impossible, but it certainly looks improbable at the present time, particularly with the limitations which are being placed on the type and price of building. If new building were allowed free of all price ceilings and in



BUILDING COSTS OF A STANDARD SIX ROOM FRAME RESIDENCE BUILT IN SAINT LOUIS

Costs are grouped into four classifications of material, four of labor and three of overhead. A further breakdown of these groups is given in detail below. Columns of the table are numbered, and a brief description of the items included in each is given in the paragraphs below. Paragraphs are numbered to correspond with the columns described. Building material costs are indicated by the letter M; corresponding labor items, in red by the letter L.

letter E. *No labor items are shown in Column 10, Building Hardware, as they have already been included in Column 5, Millwork

- Group A

 (1) Masonry: Cement, sand, gravel, quick lime, hydrated lime, hard wall plaster, face and common brick, fire brick, flue lining.

 (2) Tile Work: 4½ x 4½ wall tile, ceramic floor tile, cap and base.

- (2) The work: Ye was a columns, beams, floor and ceiling joists, interior and exterior studs, rafters, bracing, etc.
 (4) Finished Lumber: Sub-flooring, sheathing, beveled siding, finished floors, asphalt shingle roofing, roofing felt, tar paper, shutters, etc.
 (5) Millwork: Windows, doors, trim, kitchen cabinet, stairs.
- Group C

 (6) Heating: Boiler, insulating jackets, fittings, tools, pipes, con-

- nections, valves and radiation.

 (7) Plumbing: Soil pipes and connections, stack, water pipe and connections, lead oakum and bathroom fixtures; hot water heater and tank to be furnished by others.
- Group D
- (8) Sheet Metal: Galv. iron (present) gutters, downspouts, flashing.
 (9) Electrical Work: Main switch, BK cable, switch boxes, receptacles, transformer, etc. No fixtures included.
 (10) Nails and Hardware: Common and wire nails, bolts, damper, ash doors,

- (10) Mails and Hardware: Common and wire nails, bolts, damper, ash diffinish hardware.
 (11) Painting: White lead, linseed oil, turpentine.
 (12) Miscellaneous: Metal and wood laths, corner bead, insulation.
 Total Material and Labor Costs

- Group E
 (13) Overhead and profit of subcontractors in plastering, metal work,
 heating, plumbing, electrical work and tile work.
- neating, plumbing, electrical work and the work.

 (14) General contractor's profit,

 (15) Missouri sales tax (now ≥ on materials), old age and unemployment
 tax (Federal and State), liability and employees' compensation insurance,
 fire and tornado insurance, completion bond.

 (16) Total overhead, profit and other costs.

 TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST

, , ,	l G		IP A		110 424	-	GROU			ngo,	60018		UP C	: I	GROUP D					11				GROUP E				TOTAL		
YEAR	(1)	1	(2)	- 4		3)		4)	((6)									- 1		11	Tot	B.i	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	
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1921	624 742 674	121 153 163 163 1601	25	17	292 519 607 479 362	103	1008 1189 920	158 170 243 250 232	1030	143 154 220 225 209	322 290 305 273 258	160 184 192	349	124 130 150 156 166	83 83 64	14 15 21 22 20	45 46 35 35	57 66 69 73	94	31 36 30	75 81 116 119 111	104	23 32 33 31	3928 4713 3664 3248	1295 1386 1695 1773 1744	346 342 366 372 370		163 187 227 215 205	966 1095 1270 1168 1111	5185 6409 7678 6605 6103
1924 1925	618 6 606 6 566	553 521	25 251 251 251 251 251	80 80 80 80	410 401 375 379 354	246 251 240 228	779 732 732 715	304	551 492 472 432 358	242 296 302 288 275	267 274 273 264 251	277 255 244 184	381 395	224 207 197 159	64 68 69 67	26	35 37 37 37	92 87 66	94 97 89 86 84	35 37 36	159 152 145	83	36 44 45 43 41	3316 3190	2510 2467 2359 2157	508 499 469	582 656 638 617 582	228 274 267 254 237	1217 1457 1413 1370 1288	6632 7488 7284 7045 6635
	565 474 411	122	208 185 185 155 139	97 97 57 51	406 360 340 313 268	184 135 108 108	687 655 594 532	244 244 181 145 145	254	220 220 164 131 131	210	112	382 385 341 322 286	151 151 114 91 91	82 71 58 50	21 21 15 12 12	32	50 40 40	85 89 72 61 60	31 33 33 31 28	116 87 70 70	71 211 198	24 39 39	3156 2984 2655 2507	1429 1147 1141	438 380 317	412	213 213 175 146 142	1195 1196 1034 875 832	6192 6208 5447 4677 4480
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any price class for veterans or nonveterans, new building could increase very rapidly.

BUILDING COSTS house in St. Louis in February was \$9,759. This is the same as the January figure. It is an increase of 66 per cent above the cost of \$5,894 at the time the war started in Europe, or an increase of 118 per cent above the cost of \$4,480 on a distress market in 1932. The March figures will show a further increase as several price increases have come through after our February figure was computed.

Mortgage activity showed a large increase in Jan-REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES uary, our index rising to a point 2.1 per cent below the long-term computed normal. This is the highest level for real estate mortgages since 1929, with a strong probability that further increases will take place during the balance of 1946.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

dexes of business activity are charted over a period of the last nine years. It is rather interesting that practically all of the barometers which show volume of business have been dropping, while all of the financial barometers are at levels considerably above the wartime peaks. This, of course, is due to the inflation of money and credit in the United States resulting from the financing of the war by increasing the public debt. A dollar is no longer worth what it formerly was and as a result it takes more dollars to equal prewar values.

The principal factor holding back reconversion at the present time is the OPA and the wage and price policy of the President, but in spite of these it seems probable that most business barometers will turn up again this spring.

PRICE LEVEL ble and that it will occur regardless of whether the OPA is continued in June or not. We believe that a year or two from now general prices will be higher if the OPA is continued than they will be if it is buried in June. The greatest weapon against further inflation is quantity production and this cannot be achieved as readily under OPA regulations. Actual prices will probably increase by 10 per cent during 1946.

STOCK MARKET The past few weeks are, of course, disquieting.

They are probably primarily due to (1) the natural reaction from the rapid rises of the preceding period (the stock market generally goes in a saw-tooth fashion); (2) a dissatisfaction of business with OPA controls and with the wage and price formula of the President; and (3) discouragement over the present strike situation, with the apparent ineptitude of government in handling the problem.

Of course, no one knows how much further the market may drop before the reaction sets in, but we are still extremely bullish for the long pull. It seems to us that stocks will sell for a considerably larger amount than they brought before the beginning of the recent reaction.

STANDARD SIX ROOM FRAME HOUSE

Plans and Specifications used for computations of construction costs



ROY WENZLICK & CO.

706 CHESTNUT

SAINT LOUIS 1, MO.

DESCRIPTIVE SPECIFICATIONS FOR STANDARD FRAME HOUSE

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Materials, Labor, Appliances. Unless otherwise specified herein, the contractor shall provide and pay for all materials, labor, water, tools, equipment,

light and power necessary for the completion of the standard frame house as shown in the Real Estate Analyst, dated April 26, 1940. Unless otherwise specified, all materials shall be sound, new and of good quality and all work shall be done in a skillful and workman-like manner.

PREPARATION OF SITE AND EXCAVATION The contractor shall clear the site of all trees, brush, etc., which come within the area of the proposed building. He shall carefully remove and stack on the plot the top soil for making the lawn.

Excavation shall be of sufficient area and depth to accommodate the building indicated; foundation walls shall be carefully backfilled. Any surplus material not required to grade the plot as designated by plans shall be removed from the premises. Any shortage of materials shall be furnished by the contractor.

Rock excavation is not included in this contract. The contractor will be paid an additional price per cubic foot for rock removal as specified in his bid.

Pumping of other than surface water is not included in the contract price. If spring or other sub-surface water is encountered, the contractor will be paid an additional price per day for keeping the excavation free at the price quoted in his bid or agreed upon between the contractor and the owner.

CONCRETE FOOTINGS AND FOUNDATIONS Footings and foundation walls shall be installed to dimensions indicated on the plans. The mixture shall be one (1) part Portland Cement, two (2) parts clean sharp sand, five (5) parts broken stone, trap-rock,

gravel or other suitable clean coarse aggregate, graded in size to pass through a 2-inch screen, adequately mixed with a sufficient amount of clean water in a mechanical batch mixer, placed in the forms within one-half hour thereafter. Substantial and tight forms shall be built on both inner and outer surface foundations of the walls. No part of excavated material shall be used as a form.

FINISHED CEMENT WORK

The under-course shall be composed of concrete as specified above, laid level to a thickness of not less than 2½ inches. A finish coat of one (1) part Portland Cement and three (3) parts clean sharp sand shall be applied to a thickness of not less than one (1) inch on top of all concrete under-courses, finished smooth and leveled under a steel trowel. Concrete fill shall be provided for tile floors in the bathroom and lavatory.

BRICKWORK AND MASONRY ITEMS The contractor shall provide all brick work as specified on the plans, comprising a chimney, as indicated, flues lined with terracotta of proper dimensions, fireplace opening lined with fire brick,

equipped with cast-iron throat, and damper and steel smoke chamber. Cast-iron ash dump and clean-out doors provided as indicated.

Common brick shall be laid in running bond with each fifth course a header course, and laid in cement mortar composed of one (1) part Portland Cement, three (3) parts clean sharp sand to which may be added 20 per cent hydrated lime. Chimney exposed above the roof shall be laid with face brick. A chimney cap shall be provided as indicated on plans. Mantel shall be of venetian red mantel brick.

LATHING, PLASTERING AND STUCCO Exterior gable ends (see plans) shall be stuccoed with two-coat work, stucco placed on heavy-gauge galvanized-iron lath, applied securely to the sheathing and nailed every 12 inches. Both coats of stucco

shall be one (1) part Portland Cement and two (2) parts clean sand. The finish-

Where tiled walls occur in the bathroom and lavatory, the contractor shall cover with metal lath and cement mortar scratch.

Contractor shall provide for three-coat plastering over No. 1 yellow pine lath, secured to stude (or joints) at each intersection with blued lath nail, curner beads provided for all exterior angles. The scratch coat shall be one (1) part lime putty to two (2) parts sand, with proper proportions of hair and sand added. The brown coat shall be one (1) part lime putty to three (3) parts sand. The finished coat shall be one (1) part dry gauged plaster to two (2) parts dry hydrated lime. First grade workmanship is required in the application of each plaster coat. No cornice or other ornamental plaster work is contemplated under this centrect.

Four taches of loose insulating material, rock wool or equal, shall cover entire area of second floor ceiling. All exterior walls shall have 4 inches of insulation material. If quilt on but type is used, it shall be not less than 4 inches thick. Loose fill material, if used, shall be supported vertically every 7 feet and sections so formed between study packed with sufficient material to insure installation in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The contractor shall submit for approval both type and trade name of proposed material.

This specification provides for tiling bathroom and lavatory. Floors shall be prepared by the carpenter and mason, and walls by plaster contractor as specified above. The tile setter shall furnish and install four and a quarter by four and a quarter glazed commercial-grade wall tile with approved caps, cove bases, angles, finials, etc., color to be selected by owner. Tile installed to a height of 4'-'", 6'-6" around bath tuh. Bethroom and lavatory floors shall be 1" or 2" Lexappeal white ceramic tile.

The contractor shall furnish all setting materials and on completion leave the entire work properly grouted and cleaned.

Hough carpentry and framing material shall be the best grade provided in local practice. It may be AND FRAMING MATERIAL yellow pine, white pine, fir or hemlock. All material shall be of sizes indicated, with allowance for

Floor Joists ... 2" x 10" - spaced 16" c to c Celling Joists . 2" x 6" - spaced 16" c to c Honf Rafters ... 2" x 6" - spaced 16" c to c Studding in ext.

walls and int.

One line of cross bridging shall be provided for each floor span exceeding 10%. Framing shall be in accordance with best practice, using box method for constructing the first floor and platform method above. The entire structure shall be braced and trussed where necessary and securely nailed as required by best practice.

UNDERFLOORING AND SHEATHING Sheathing on roof and exterior walls and all subflooring shall be provided as indicated. Material shall be No. 2, dressed and not over 6" width, laid diagonally for floors and exterior walls and each in-

tersection well secured by two 6d nails.

SIDING AND ROOFING quarter by ten inch redwood siding, cut, fitted and placed between door and window casings, with 8" exposed to the weather. Corners shall be mitered. House and garage roofs shall be asphalt strip shingle weighing not less than 260 lbs. per square.

PAPER AND FELT

Before placing siding, all exterior sheathing surface shall be covered with one course of approved waterproof building felt, weighing no less than 15 lbs. per square. This material shall be well nailed and lapped not less than 2 inches

at all edges, applied in double thickness around all windows and door openings.

Before placing asphalt shingles—the entire roof shorthing shall be assured

Before placing asphalt shingles, the entire roof sheathing shall be covered with waterproof roofing felt weighing not less than 15 lbs. per square. This roof felt shall be well nailed and lapped not less than 2 inches at all edges.

Before placing the finished flooring, all sub-flooring shall be covered with one course of building paper.

FLASHING - SHEET METAL WORK leys and angles, chimney counter and step flashed.

Provide gutters and downspouts (see plans) of 16 ounces copper with necessary fittings, all securely supported by approved hangers and straps.

MILLWORK - WINDOW FRAMES AND SASH Shall be glazed with double-strength clear glass provided completely with brass-

faced cast-iron pulleys, weights, and sash cord. The sash shall be 1-3/8" thick, check-rail type. Exterior door frames shall be 2" clear pine rabbeted to receive 1-3/4" stock doors.

MILLWORK - INTERIOR

All stock trim necessary to complete the various parts of the work indicated shall be provided. All casings, base, trim, stools and moulding shall be of yellow pine of the best quality and of approved design as carried in local stock. Exterior doors shall be clear pine 1-3/4" thick of the size shown on the plans as selected from local catalog stock. Interior doors shall be of clear pine six panel colonial design 1-3/8" thick of the size indicated on the plans selected from local catalog stock.

Finished floors shall be of clear select red oak $2\frac{1}{4}$ " x 13/16 inches, to be placed over all floor areas on the first and second floors, except the bath and lavatory. Flooring shall be laid tight and even and nailed every 16 inches. All oak flooring shall be scraped or sanded and completed ready for the painters.

Two built-in kitchen dressers shall be provided as indicated on the plans. They shall be 4' x 8', built of No. 1 pine or fir as selected and carried by local catalog stock.

Basement stairs shall be finished and erected as indicated on the plans. These stairways including stringers, treads and rail shall be of No. 1 yellow pine. Stairs from first to second floor shall be furnished and erected as indicated on the plans properly supported on 2" x 6" carriages and blocking. Risers shall be of pine B or better, 7/8" x $8\frac{1}{4}$ x 3'-6"; treads of red or white oak, $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1-1/8" x 3'-6". The rail shall be $2\frac{1}{4}$ x 2-3/8". Rail, volute and easing shall

be of birch or oak. Balusters with tapered turned necking shall be of birch or pine. The stair-railing shall be of colonial design, all as selected from local catalog stock.

rior woodwork the painter shall apply a priming coat consisting of white lead, pure linseed oil and turpentine in the proportions considered best in local practice. Upon completion of the priming coat, all hail holes and other imperfections in the work shall be stopped and filled with white lead putty. Before priming, knots and shakes shall be stopped with one coat of pure orange shellac. Second and third coats shall be mixed and applied in the color selected. Painters may mix at the job all white lead and oil paint in the proportions customary in the locality, using paste, white lead, pure linseed oil, turpentine and dryer, mixed in such proportions as to weigh not less than 15 lbs. per gallon. Painter may use the best qualities of approved ready-mixed paints. Each can must bear the formula of its contents. Materials shall be used direct from this original package and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. (This contract does not contemplate the painting or decoration of plastered walls and ceilings.) Painter shall oil-stain oak floors in shade selected and fill with an approved paste filler. Floors shall then be finished with three coats of white shellac.

PLUMBING

This specification contemplates a complete plumbing, drainage and water-supply system for one bathroom, one kitchen and one lavatory.

Immediately upon completion of all exterior and inte-

Sewer Line, Vents and Drainage. House sewer line of four inches shall be carried to a point 50 feet beyond foundation walls. Septic tank, drainage field, a connection to public sewer or municipal permits as may be required by local custom are not included. Vent and drainage system shall be installed in accordance with best local practice, municipal code, or requirements of American Society of Sanitary Engineers. All joints shall be filled with oakum and poured lead and well calked. Two-inch vent and waste lines shall be of genuine galvanized wrought iron. Four-inch vitrified tile pipe shall be continued beyond the foundation walls for 50 feet and the joints securely set with cement mortar. Plumber shall excavate and backfill all pipe trenches.

Water Supply. A pipe shall be continued 50 feet beyond the foundation walls This shall be laid using 3/4" copper water tubing with "sweat-joint fittings." One-half inch copper tubing with sweat-joint pipe and fitting shall be installed for hot and cold water supply and connected with all plumbing fixtures and boiler. (Water closets and boiler shall be provided with cold-water supply only.) All pipe and fitting shall be installed in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

Tests. The drainage, vent, sewer system and water supply shall be tested in the manner prescribed by local practice or by the American Society of Sanitary Engineers.

Fixtures. There shall be furnished and installed to the rough connections here provided fixtures of quality equal to those specified in the following list: (The following list covers items manufactured by the Independent Plumbing and Heating Company. Contractor is permitted to substitute any equal combination.)

> 60-inch Queen Sink #457 Two Knight Pedestal Lavatories 20" x 24" over all #224 Two Colonial Vitreous China toilets with white ivoryette seat #344 One 60-inch bath tub #123

Hot Water Supply. A domestic heater is not provided under these specifications. It will be provided under separate order on selection by the owner and cost of connecting and placing the device in operation shall be included under this original plumbing contract.

Alternates. If local building codes and practice do not permit the use of copper tubing and sweat-joint fittings for water supply, the contractor shall furnish genuine wrought-iron galvanized pipe in place thereof. However, where substitution is made, pipe one size larger than specified shall be provided.

The purpose of this specification is to describe comHEATING PLANT plete installation of the 1-pipe vacuum heating
plant. All pipes shall be genuine wrought iron, installed in sizes, pitch and direction as indicated on the heating plans and instructions provided by the manufacturer furnishing the vacuum system accessories.

Radiators. Radiators of the Corto type shall be provided and installed as directed by the architect. Radiation furnished by this contract consists of a total of 260 square feet. The boiler shall be of capacity and design equal to Red Flash No. 185, American Radiator Company #W-2204, complete including insulating jackets, standard fittings and tools.

The contractor shall guarantee the heating plant to heat the entire first and second floors of the house to 70 degrees Fahrenheit when the outside temperature is at Zero Fahrenheit and wind velocity is not in excess of 30 miles per hour, with not less than a 6-hour firing period. This should be accomplished with not more than a 2-pound gauge pressure at the boiler, or with the vacuum at the height specified by the manufacturer of the vacuum system accessories. The plant shall be tested as required and left complete.

Covering - Pipe and Boiler Jacket. The boiler shall have standard insulated jacket as regularly furnished by manufacturer, lined with not less than 1-inch thickness of asbestos sheet insulation, and 4-inch asbestos fill shall be placed on floor within jacket. All exposed supply pipes in the cellar and within building walls shall be covered with approved 2-inch air-cel asbestos covering. All exposed covering shall be banded at the joints with brass strapping.

Painting. All exposed pipes in the cellar as well as any exposed unfinished cast-iron parts of the boiler shall receive two coats of approved smoke-stack black. All radiators, and any exposed pipes above the first floor level shall be thoroughly cleaned and receive two coats of approved heat-resisting radiator paint in color selected.

ELECTRIC WIRING

It is the purpose of this specification to describe a complete electrical installation. All material shall be of standard make and of quality and installed as required by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. All outlets shall terminate in approved metal boxes. Switches shall be of toggle type. All outlets other than for lighting fixtures and switches shall be equipped with standard duplex connections. Wiring to outlets shall be of approved-size B. X. cable of sufficient size to carry the circuit load.

Each circuit shall be switched and fused and extended to a central panel board. This contractor shall terminate all circuits at an appropriate meter and fuse board.

Connection from meter panel to public service lines is not included in this contract, nor are electrical fixtures and appliances provided.

